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FAULCONER CHARTS CITY'S BATTLE VS. HOMELESSNESS

Mayor also vows to bolster police force in annual address

BY DAVID GARRICK

Expanding San Diego's campaign against homelessness, recruiting police officers from across the nation to fill a rash of vacancies and clearing neighborhoods of trash and graffiti are among Mayor Kevin Faulconer's priorities for 2018.

Faulconer used his annual State of the City address on Thursday to lay out those goals and several others, including expansion of the waterfront convention center and spurring housing construction with incentives and loosened regulations.

The mayor focused most of his one-hour speech at downtown's Balboa Theatre on homelessness. He unveiled some new initiatives and declared efforts launched during last year's hepatitis A crisis as successes the city can build on.

The new initiatives include establishing the city's first "housing navigation center," a permanent indoor facility at 14th Street and Imperial Avenue that

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TRUMP BALKS AT DEAL FOR HAITIANS, AFRICANS

President uses vulgarity to refer to some immigrants' nations of origin

U-T NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Thursday balked at an immigration deal that would include protections for people from Haiti and some nations in Africa, demanding to know at a White House meeting why he should accept immigrants from "s***hole countries" rather than people from places like Norway, according to people with direct knowledge of the conversation.

Trump's remarks left members of Congress from both parties attending the meeting in the Cabinet Room alarmed and mystified. He made them during a discussion of an emerging bipartisan deal to give legal status to immigrants illegally brought to the United States as children, the people said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the meeting.

> **"Why do we want people from Haiti here?"**
>
> President Donald Trump

When Trump heard that Haitians were among those who would benefit from the proposed deal, he asked whether they could be left out of the plan, asking, "Why do we want people from Haiti here?"

The comments were reminiscent of ones the president made last year in an Oval Office meeting with Cabinet officials and administration aides, during which he complained about admitting Haitians to the country, saying that they all had AIDS, as well as Nigerians, who he said would never go back to their "huts," according to officials who heard the statements in person or were briefed on the remarks by people who had. The White House denied last month that Trump made those remarks.

In a written statement, Raj Shah, the White House deputy press secretary, did not deny the account of the meeting Thursday or directly address Trump's comments.

SEE TRUMP • A6

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG LOS ANGELES TIMES

Travis Zehntner comforts Teresa Drenick among the belongings of her sister Rebecca Riskin, who was killed in the mudslide along San Ysidro Creek in Montecito. Family and friends salvaged family photos and furnishings from the home.

COMBINATION OF FACTORS RAISED MUDSLIDES' TOLL

Warning system issues, unwillingness of some residents to evacuate blamed

BY JOSEPH SERNA & HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

LOS ANGELES

Josie Gower woke up to the sound of rain hammering the roof of her Montecito home around 3 a.m. Tuesday. She walked downstairs, where her boyfriend had been keeping an eye on the storm, and together they opened to door to look outside.

A wall of mud and boulders as big as pickup trucks crashed toward Gower's house, sweeping the couple out the front door. Gower, 69, clung to the door frame. Her boyfriend reached for her hand. Neither could hold on.

Her boyfriend, Norm, was pinned against a fence, buried in mud up to his neck. She was swept away and died.

"He was in the mud calling her name for hours," said Alastair Haigh, Gower's 37-year-old son-in-law.

More than two full days after mudslides ravaged the coastal town, the search for the missing became an increasingly desperate exercise Thursday, with growing doubts about whether anyone would be found alive. Seventeen people from ages 3 to 89 were confirmed dead, and more than 40 others were unaccounted for.

By the time tons of mud and debris started flowing down fire-scorched hillsides and into Montecito neighborhoods early Tuesday, it was too late for most residents still inside their

SEE MUDSLIDE • A6

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ventura County fire captain Clay Cundiff searches in thigh-deep mud in the bedroom of a home for a woman who was reported missing.

NUMBER OF HEPATITIS A INCIDENTS PLATEAUS

Official says this is the first time since March 2017 that tallies haven't increased

BY PAUL SISSON

For the first time since March, San Diego County's hepatitis A outbreak has not produced any new confirmed or probable cases, deaths or hospitalizations.

The latest counts, published by the county Health and Human Services Agency Tuesday, didn't budge from totals released on Jan. 3: 577 cases, 396 hospitalizations and 20 deaths.

Dr. Eric McDonald, chief of the county's Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch, confirmed in an email Thursday afternoon that it's the first time since San Diego's hepatitis A outbreak was detected in March that the region has gone a week without outbreak tallies growing.

He added that the county has not been notified of a single outbreak-connected case of hepatitis A with onset of symptoms more recent than Dec. 28. There are currently three suspected cases, but two are thought to be travel-related. For weeks now,

SEE HEPATITIS • A9

CPUC VOTES TO CLOSE STATE'S LAST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

BY ROB NIKOLEWSKI

The last remaining nuclear power plant in California will begin shutting down in six years after state regulators Thursday unanimously approved a plan outlining details of the closure.

"We chart a new energy future by phasing out nuclear power here in California," California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Picker said before the 5-0 vote to close the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County. "We agree the time has come."

The decision comes after the plant's operator, Pacific Gas & Electric, announced an agreement in 2016 with a collection of environmental and labor groups to shutter the plant that has delivered electricity since 1985.

SEE NUCLEAR • A10

WEEKEND

HOT OFF THE PRESS

E1 • Steven Spielberg's "The Post" is a gripping story that couldn't be more timely.

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